

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, the day you have longed for is here. You have brought the U.S. Government to a halt and the verge of default. I hope you are happy.

And why has it come to this. Why are our national parks closed, why can't senior citizens or veterans apply for Social Security or veteran benefits, why can not people get their passports? Because you have not done your work. You have been so busy pursuing your extremist ideological agenda that you have ignored the business of the people. And now you want to blame the President.

Well, the President is right and the American people agree. The President will not give in to your drastic proposals: Your extremist plans to cut Medicare, destroy our environment, defund education and give tax breaks to the rich while raising taxes on working families.

Stop playing the blame game, Madam Speaker. Stop blackmailing the President. Show some leadership. Send the President a clean bill and he will sign it, and let us get on with the business of governing.

The American people are watching and waiting.

PUTTING OUR FINANCIAL HOUSE IN ORDER

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, in the last several months we were warned repeatedly by the administration that if the train wreck happened, financial markets would collapse. Well, let us look at the facts; Financial markets hit a record high yesterday, and they are up again this morning.

Why? Because Americans are expressing confidence in this Congress. We are serious about controlling entitlements and putting our financial house in order.

It is unfortunate that we have been forced to send 800,000 nonessential Federal employees home. But it would be a tragedy of historic proportions if we backed down now on our commitment to balance this budget.

LET US GET ABOUT THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

(Mr. FRAZER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRAZER. Madam Speaker, we are elected to represent our constituents before this body. But in my district there is an expression we use. It is called poppy show. It means unnecessary rhetoric and deliberate foolishness.

Today the U.S. Government is about to shut down because my colleagues on

the other side of the aisle are set; they are set in forcing the President and the minority Members of this body to accept their ideology of how the Government should be run.

This is not about balanced budgets. We all agree we need a balanced budget, but not on the backs of those who can least defend themselves, such as senior citizens and students.

I support the President and the Members of this body who believe that we cannot cut programs such as Medicare, student loans, and the Clean Air Act; that we should not cut these programs only to fulfill a promise to the wealthy in this country who make over \$100,000.

We are in a crisis. We call for leadership, bipartisan leadership, leadership where all parties come together for the good of the American people. Now it is time to act. Let us be responsible and pass the budget. Let us pass the resolution without riders. Let us get about the people's business.

PRESERVING AND PROTECTING MEDICARE

(Mr. GANSKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GANSKE. Madam Speaker, the President is shutting down Government because he wants to decrease Medicare premiums.

Madam Speaker, does the President not read his own Medicare report? These are his own appointees who are telling him that Medicare is going bankrupt. Is there any American in this country who pays health care premiums that has not seen an increase in premiums?

Everyone has to contribute something to save this system: Doctors, hospitals and, yes, Madam Speaker, recipients, too.

This plan does not increase deductibles. It does not increase copayments. But it only asks seniors to maintain the current share of their premium. Is that too much?

Madam Speaker, most of the senior citizens that I talk to understand that we must save the system, that they are willing to contribute, and that by doing so we can preserve and protect the system for future Medicare recipients.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule.

Committee on Banking and Financial Services, Committee on Commerce, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Committee on International

Relations, Committee on National Security, and Committee on Resources.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Tim Sanders, one of his secretaries.

CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Corrections Calendar.

The Clerk will call the first bill on the Corrections Calendar.

REPEALING AN UNNECESSARY MEDICAL DEVICE REPORTING REQUIREMENT

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 2366), to repeal an unnecessary medical device reporting requirement.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 2366

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPEAL.

Section 1862 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y) is amended by striking subsection (h).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BROWN] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS].

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2366, legislation to repeal the unnecessary regulatory burden of the cardiac pacemaker registry imposed by the Social Security Act.

Section 1862(h) of the Social Security Act requires doctors and hospitals receiving Medicare funds to provide information to the Federal Government upon the implementation, removal, or replacement of pacemaker devices and pacemaker leads. However, in 1990 the Congress amended the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act to establish comprehensive reporting requirements that make the registry requirement in the Social Security Act duplicative and unnecessary. Removal of this unnecessary reporting requirement will be welcomed by the health care community and by manufacturers as well